

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY.

Business Office 308 E. Main Street
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By MAIL. One Six Three One
Post Card. One Six Three One
Daily, with Sunday, \$6.00 per month
Daily, without Sunday, \$4.00 per month
Sunday edition only, \$6.00 per month
Weekly (Wednesday), \$6.00 per month

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs), Manchester and Petersburg—
One Week, One Year,
Daily, with Sunday, \$6.00 per month
Daily, without Sunday, \$4.00 per month
Sunday edition only, \$6.00 per month
Yearly subscriptions payable in advance.

Entered, January 2, 1902, at Richmond, Va., second-class matter, under act of Congress of March 3, 1893.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1906.

Things Settled and Unsettled.

President Alderman, of the University, said in his recent address here that we had gotten far enough along in the progress of education to have settled definitely and finally some questions which were once in dispute. Prominently in this connection he mentioned the right of every child to have a common school education at the expense of the State.

The Times-Dispatch is pleased to have its own contention to that effect affirmed by so eminent an authority as Dr. Alderman. The State now recognizes that public education is a public necessity; that the education of the child is not only good for the child, but good for the State, and hence the Constitution provides that the General Assembly SHALL establish and maintain an efficient system of public free schools throughout the State. Each and every child in the State has the right to attend the public schools, and we do not believe that the parent has the right to deprive his child of the right of an education. He certainly has no moral right to do so, and hence our advocacy of compulsory education, within the limits of the Constitution.

Among the questions which Dr. Alderman mentioned as still being more or less unsettled was the question of waste in our educational system. He expressed the conviction, however, that soon or late this question would also be settled in Virginia, as the State would eventually demand something like a reasonable dividend on its large investments in educational machinery.

This is a question which The Times-Dispatch has also discussed on various occasions. We have in Richmond, for example, an educational plant which costs many thousands of dollars. We operate it five or six hours a day, for five days in the week, during a period of nine months in each year. The rest of the time it is idle.

The public institutions of learning—the State University and the State colleges—are operated much in the same way.

It needs not be said that no business concern could last very long if conducted on this wasteful basis. It is a question to which the State must give attention. Her educational plants should be operated for longer hours, and so made to give greater returns. The waste is intolerable, and is a reflection upon our thrift and business sagacity.

Duty.

It is said that the distressing accident on the Southern Railway was due to the negligence of a telegraph operator. He was but an atom in the organization, but he had a place; he had a work to do and a duty to discharge which no man could do for him. He neglected his duty, and as a result of his negligence, the president of the road lost his life.

What a terrible responsibility is duty! And every man has his duties—his own duties, which no one can perform for him. The neglect of duty may not cost a human life; may not even cause an inconvenience; but it is sure to be attended with injury in one form or another. It is sure to injure the man who neglects it. The duty itself may seem trivial, but neglect of duty is no trifles.

"Duty is the sublimest word in the English language," said General Lee, and that motto was his rule of conduct.

"A sense of duty pursues us ever," said Daniel Webster. "It is omnipresent, like the Deity. It wakes us to self-sacrifice, like the morning, and dwells in the uttermost parts of the sea, duty performed or duty violated is still with us, for one happiness or misery. If we say to ourselves, 'darkness shall cover us, in the darkness as in the light our obligations are yet with us.'

Duty to country; duty to society, duty to family; duty to business—in a word, duty to God and our neighbor—is an ever-present obligation. We now wish it, but we cannot escape the responsibility of it, and we will neither let it go.

I know your duty and I do not know a truer sentence for any man to say.

For He Loved Much.

In commenting on the death of the late Thomas J. McIver, The Times-Dispatch drew a parallel between his career and that of one of the richest men in the world, who died in New York about the same date.

The fact was noted that although the rich man's death caused a flurry in Wall Street, because of his influence in the financial world, his memory was over before his remains had been laid in the tomb, and his death seemed to be only a passing episode, provoking little or no comment.

Dr. McIver had no relatives, no money-changers count riches, but when he died the whole South mourned.

Editor Daniels, of the Raleigh News

and Observer, tells the secret. A few years before McIver's death, he received an offer from a business concern which would have paid him a salary of \$5,000 a year—an offer that was necessarily tempting to a man who had laid by nothing for the nonproductive period of old age. But the temptation was but momentary. He declined the offer and went about his work for education with more than ever of the zest of consecration.

The world is very keen after a hero, and the world knew McIver for as chivalrous and gallant a knight as ever drew lance for the cause he loved. He did not accumulate money, but he scattered abroad with a liberal hand the rich treasures of his mind and heart; and the world received with gratitude and love and blessed him for his generosity.

Under a State statute one day in the year is set apart for the consideration by the public schools of "some topic or topics of State history." This year "North Carolina Day" will be observed on December 14th, and will be devoted "to a reverent study of the life, character and unselfish service of Charles Duncan McIver, the children's friend, the teachers' friend, the State's friend, the effective and courageous champion of all that vitally affected the interests of these." A program of exercises has been prepared by Superintendent J. Y. Joyner, and contains an admirable sketch of McIver by Mr. R. D. W. Connor, together with other matter relating to his life and work.

Was ever more beautiful tribute paid by a mother State to a dutiful and loving son? And so is fulfilled the saying that is written, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Baptists at Jamestown.

The Baptist Argus says it is very important that there shall be a proper and adequate Baptist display at the Jamestown Exposition by the Baptists of the country. It notes the fact that it was in Virginia that Baptists began and won their fight for religious liberty, although Roger Williams had previously sounded his note in Rhode Island.

"It is now admitted by all," adds our contemporary, "that Baptists put religious liberty into the American Constitution. This is the great Baptist contribution to human government. It is the greatest contribution of recent centuries on this subject. For this and other reasons the Argus urges that there should be a fine Baptist building at the exposition, where Baptists from all over the world could come and all see something of what Baptists have done and are doing in the world."

The Religious Herald, of Richmond, says that the General Association of Virginia appointed a committee to look after this matter, and the Herald agrees that there ought to be some worthy exhibition at the exposition, in which Baptists of the country ought to unite.

The suggestion is timely and altogether appropriate. The Jamestown Exposition will be held to celebrate an event and to exploit history, and all organizations, of whatever character, which have had a part in making the history of the nation should take an active part in the celebration and make an exhibit.

God's Appeal to Man.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord"—Isa. 5. 18.

There was a time when such words were not used by the Almighty. We turn to the Book of Genesis and read where God drove out the man from Eden, and set a flaming sword to guard the entrance to that garden. It looked then as if God Himself had turned away from His child, and left the sinner to wander in the pain and bitterness of his rebellion. There was no proposition at that time to reason out the case. And yet, under all the apparent withdrawal and treacherousness of righteous judgment, there was still the spirit of mercy and hope towards man. For the Gospel is no new invention; it is as old as eternity, as far-reaching as God.

We are surprised to find approval of this movement by the New York Evening Post, but our contemporary is so disgusted because Platt and Depew will not resign, although the people of the State are overwhelmingly against them, that it virtually sanctions the proposed change. "If the new system were in effect here," says the Post, "the incumbents would not have the slightest chance of re-election, yet because these men are not facing re-election the decent Republicans of this State are calmly regarding them as evil and submitting to the intolerable disgrace of their presence in the Senate."

This looks like business. If thirty States of the Union determine that the Constitution shall be changed in this respect and that Senators in Congress shall be elected by popular vote, such an amendment to the Constitution will be carried in spite of the opposition of the United States Senate.

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The preposition comes from God. It does not arise from the human side at all. It is an act of pure condescension on the part of the Almighty. Grace comes from the sovereignty of God; and the hope of salvation is of God's grace. He is not in anywise our conception or our doing. We are saved by faith, and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God.

God, then, makes this proposition, and proceeds upon the assumption that He is right in the case. We know this is the custom among ourselves. The great man is always the first to make overtures of reconciliation. And if this be true of us, it is in an infinitely higher degree true in the case of the Almighty Jehovah.

In the event of war in the Far East, Captain Hobson seems convinced that the victory would be Japanese.

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Knowing this, God asks us to reason out the case with Him. Man ought to be able to say why he does this or why he refrains from that. He ought, at the close of each day, to be able to vindicate his course of business or conduct for that day. Is this not right? God says, "Why do you do it? Give me your reasons for having done so. State your case to Me in your own terms."

If men would think more they would sin less. At least some of us dare not think. We shut our eyes, we take the plunge, we risk the consequences. God entreats us, in His great mercy, "Do not say, be careful, steady-minded, sober, thoughtful."

The question is easily answered. The way to renew the farmer is through the newspapers and the pressmen of Virginia, who are quite ready to cooperate. Long ago The Times-Dispatch insisted that the good work of the Virginia Department of Agriculture was a trained newspaper man, whose business it should be to collect information from the department and return it to them for the benefit of the farmers. Information thus collected should be printed on slips and sent regularly to the newspapers in the various sections of the state, putting the matter to the popular conditions of agriculture in this section and that.

That the newspapers of Virginia would cheerfully publish such writer reads only to be said. They are public-spirited; they are always willing to do what they can to advance the interest of their sec-

tion, especially the interest of farmers, and nothing would be more interesting to the readers of a country newspaper than practical talk on farming. The department would supply the material, the department's editor would put it in shape and send it to the newspapers, and the newspapers would carry it into the homes of the farmers.

The Times-Dispatch respectfully commends the suggestion to the Board of Agriculture, and incidentally to the Cooperative Education Association.

Mr. Bryan Retaliates.

Mr. Bryan has discovered that his government ownership proposal is of Republican origin. He has found a paper written several years ago by Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in which Mr. Knapp argued that government operation of railroads was not only practicable, but highly desirable. Mr. Bryan intends to have this paper printed in pamphlet form and given wide circulation in the interest of his pet scheme.

The Springfield Republican comes to the man who has really done the evil deed and says: "Come now, let us reason together." Make this a special hour in your history; say what you will—only be honest with your own heart and yourself." No man can vindicate wrong by reason. No man can make out a good cause for wrong-doing. Common sense is against you, as well as spiritual revelation. "O that My people were wise, that they would consider!"

We are invited to go to the fountain-head and state our case directly to the man who has really done the evil deed and says: "Come now, let us reason together." Make this a special hour in your history; say what you will—only be honest with your own heart and yourself." No man can vindicate wrong by reason. No man can make out a good cause for wrong-doing. Common sense is against you, as well as spiritual revelation. "O that My people were wise, that they would consider!"

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Once there was a lady as she tried To leave her out and jounce her,

The old cartoonists on the wall Still show the passing novice.

How Ted once swore, though skies might fall,

He'd never more hold office.

Long years ago, when summer sun Shines over it while setting,

The candidates came one by one,

And Fairbanks led the betting.

A summer sun, it threw its shafts On Shaw and Hughes, I tell you;

I touched Joe Cannon, Willy Taft And hopeful George Cortelyou.

And Fairbanks said: "Well, here we are,

And each is good and ready.

To learn just where you stand T. R. is what our chances, Teddy?"

For near them stood the man of war The party's favorite singled,

His face behind a Panama Where woe and shame were mingled.

Taff saw him fit his eyes Shaw felt

The news would be distressing.

All saw a tragic scene Roosevelt

As though some faint confessing.

You sorry that I kept the word

And spelt it so phonetic;

You sorry Fairbanks' hope's deferred

And Shaw feels some spleen,

Tid gladly where you this distress,

And let you sit above me—

But, boy, they MADE up its tie,

Because you see, they love me."

Still memory shows to those old men That toothsome face, confounding.

Some 25 years have passed since then, And Roosevelt's still presiding.

They've lived to learn that, in life's school,

However much men live them,

There're few who at the chance to rule Won't gladly step above them.

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

An Indiana Child.

"Professor, I wrote a novel at six."

"Dear me! Yes, and a volume of reminiscences at eight?"—Washington Star.

Real Wit.

Elephant's foot, says an exchange,

Taking longer to cook than any other dish

—sixty-six hours in a hot oven. Much

time to your cook to-night when

giving her your couple of pounds of elephant's foot.

Last year Palermo exported to the United States \$2,633,627 worth of lemons, most of which were handled during the course of the year to Willy Hearst, of New York.

According to a Kentucky contemporary,

"we took three policemen to arrest a paralyzed man in Louisville." In Kentucky, when a man gets paralyzed he

goes to prison for life.

Happy.

Mrs. Newell—My husband admires

everything about me. She's a fortune,

but I'm not very good at home,"

says Mrs. Newell. "I have a

husband who's a bore," she continues.

Change of Heart.

"I think I'll marry her. She's a lot of fun," says Mr. Newell. "She's a fortune, and I'm not very good at home."

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